

Message Text

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AFDROUGHT

SUBJECT: FINANCING TRUCKS FOR NIGER

1. SOME CROSSING OF WIRES IS INEVITABLE IN VIEW VARYING APPROACHES TO QUESTION OF FINANCING TRUCKS FOR SAHEL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SPECIAL ORDER FOR 12 FOR NIGER LARGELY AT U.S. INITIATIVE. STEVENSON'S CONCEPTION IS A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OURS. PUTTING BOTH IN PERSPECTIVE MAY HELP EXPEDITE A DECISION AND AVOID FURTHER COMPLICATIONS.

2. OSRO CONCEPTION IS THAT PARKER INITIATIVE ENCOMPASSED A MUCH LARGER POTENTIAL VEHICLE PROGRAM THAN THE 12 TRUCKS NOW INVOLVED. UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES TEVENSON CONSIDERED MULTIDONOR APPROACH AND OSRO IMPLEMENTATION ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE. STILL DOES, BUT REDUCED SIZE (TO A POINT WHERE THE ADDED VEHICLES ARE LESS THAN SOME OTHER DONORS CONTRIBUTIONS TO TRUCK FLEETS) MAKES IT LESS DESIRABLE TO FOCUS ON THIS ITEM AS A SPECIFIC MEANS OF ATTRACTING OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS. BY WAYS OF COMPARISON HE BELIEVES THAT AS MANY AS 300 ADDITIONAL TRUCKS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR COMING YEAR AND THAT APPEALS FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS MIGHT BEST BE DIRECTED TO THESE AND OTHER LARGER SAHEL NEEDS.

3. U.S. APPROACH ON OTHER HAND HAS FOCUSED ON OTHER BILATERAL
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE TRUCKS FOR NIGER. HARD TO JUDGE FROM

HERE VALUE TO U.S. OF BEING ABLE SHOWS OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PARTICULAR PURPOSE. OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS (E.G. RECENT NORWEGIAN ALLOCATION) NOT SO RESTRICTED AS TO USE MAY BE ATTRIBUTED THIS PURPOSE IF IT IS IMPORTANT TO U.S., REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC AMOUNTS COME FORWARD LABELED 12 TRUCKS FOR NIGER. THERE ARE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (E.G. OSRO OFFER TO PAY HALF OF ADDED COST FOR TRANS SAHARA MOVEMENT) BUT REAL POINT AS TO SIGNIFICANCE OF OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THESE TRUCKS ONLY WASHINGTON CAN MEASURE.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES STEVENSON WOULD OF COURSE STRONGLY PREFER BINDING U.S. COMMITMENT OF \$600,000 AND FULL CREDIT TO U.S. FOR THE TRUCKS FOR NIGER. IF WASHINGTON PREFERS ATTRIBUTE ONLY HALF THAT AMOUNT TO THIS PURPOSE, HE IS WILLING FOR OSRO TAKE UP THE BALANCE. IT WOULD HELP TO CLEAR THE AIR AS WELL AS FACILITATE OTHER PLANNING IF AID/W WOULD MAKE THIS DECISION AND ADVISE.VOLPE

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